

BULLETIN



20 December 2009



Breaking News: Is the City of San Diego stabbing hams in the back? Have our antenna ordinance efforts been ignored or downright snubbed? Folks, it is time to get serious or risk losing our ability to operate efficiently.

Wayne Zimmerman, NN6R

NO DECEMBER MEETING

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From the Prez . . .

Wayne Zimmerman NN6R

I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your family, a "Happy Holidays". I certainly hope that the New Year brings everyone health and happiness, as well as substantially increased sunspots. I think 2010 should be a good year for DXing. Now if we could just get some favorable antenna ordinances in place, all would be well with the world.



Breaking News: Speaking of antenna ordinances, you have probably seen on the cluster the newest information from the attorney's on what appears to be San Diego City's stab in the back. It isn't wired in place yet but it looks like all the effort put in by Larry, Felix, and others has all but been ignored or down-right snubbed. Folks, it is time to get serious or risk losing our ability to operate efficiently. We are still \$600 short of covering our last expenditure for the attorneys and we are going to be in need of significantly more very soon. I implore you, particularly if you have not yet contributed, to invest in your ham radio future by sending a donation via our Treasurer, Leon Helms, N6VS. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

By now, Bud N7CW and Ned AA7A should be back home safely from their play date in Sierra Leone. Those guys did an incredible job of handling the pile ups and maintaining a high Q rate. Maybe we can get Bud back over here for a meeting and he can give us a special presentation.

Contest season is in full swing with CQWW CW, 160 meter and 10 meter contests to name a few. On Saturday of the CW contest, the propagation was pretty good but then it headed down hill fast. Sunday was OK and by Monday it was way down. 15 meters opened nicely and I picked up about 45 new band countries since I restarted. I understand that K6NA, N6KI and W6YI kicked some major tuchas in the CW contest. Others may have done well too, I just haven't heard.

Remember, dues are now due and will be considered delinquent after Jan. 31, 2010. Please forward your checks for \$20 to Leon.

Also, last call for nominees for 2009 DX'er of the Year. I only have one nomination at this time.

See you at the January meeting on Jan 27.

73, Wayne, NN6R



The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since its founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

Treasurers Report

Leon Helms N6VS



Bank Balance as of November 1, 2009 \$3329.15

Income:

Contributions to legal fund	60.00
Membership dues	120.00

Expenses:

Brochure production	166.03
Quiz prizes	54.20
Web site hosting	85.00
Glasser-Bailey	10.00
October speaker dinner	21.90

Bank balance November 30 3329.15

Petty Cash on hand 20.00

Balance checking & Petty Cash \$3349.15

Antenna ordinance balance **(\$595.67)**

San Diego DX Club Meeting Minutes

The San Diego DX Club held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at the Sizzler Restaurant, Aero Drive and Murphy Canyon Road. Our President, Wayne Zimmerman NN6R, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Thirty-two members and guests were present. John, N6WST was introduced the visitor for the evening.

Club mugs were presented to Bob, N6JOJ for his work at the grills during the bash and Arnie, W7BIA for the outstanding redesign of our web pages.

Nominations for DXer of the year should be sent to NN6R.

John, N6WST told of his struggles with the city of Poway that is attempting to fine him \$1000.00 for erecting his wire dipole!!

Additional help is needed for the registration desk at Visalia. This is the SDDXC responsibility for 2010.

The DX roundup was as interesting as ever, with of plans for the upcoming contests and improving band conditions.

The evening's program was a photo tour of some of our shacks organized by Gayle, K6GO. Narration was provided by N6ND Rick, WB6BFG / N6UWW Wild Bill and Ellen, N6ERD Dan and W6HCD Nash as photos of their rigs and antenna farms were shown. Photos of your station are solicited and might be included in the next shack tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47

K6AIL, K6AM, W6AQ, WB6BFG, K6BK, W6BK, W6BS, N6CW, V7CW, N6ERD, W6EUF, N6IEF, K6JHD, W6KH, N6KI, K6MC, AF6MX, K6NA, AI6O, K6QS, NORR, N7TY, NF9T, W6TUR, N6UWW, W6VNR, K6WSC, W6WU, AE6XG, N6GZ, K6ZH, AD6ZI, N5ZO, AND W6ZZ have not paid their 2010 dues. Dues are due 12/31. Save the club the cost of sending reminder/invoices on 1/4/2010 by mailing your dues today. Dues are now \$20 per year and future years cannot be prepaid.

Respectfully submitted by Leon Helms N6VS secretary/treasurer

SDDXC QSL Checkpoints:

Another great reason for coming to the meetings!

PLUS you save on postage!

CQ Awards (WAZ, CQ DX, WPX) K6NA

ARRL Field Checkers: WA6MHZ, W6YOO

THE SDDXC TOP 10 (Postponed from July)

By John, K6AM



6M and 160M

CURRENT

COUNTRIES

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 6 METERS

7/09	7/08	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	N6CW	27	100	100	102	-
2.	2.	K6TQ	18	57	57	57	-
3.	4.	N6ND	17	12	12	38	+1
4.	3.	N7CW	18	25	25	37	-
5.	5.	K6ZH	15	21	21	25	+1
6.	6.	W6EUF		17	17	22	-
7.	7.	KB5MY		?	?	15	-
8.	-	JA1FRQ		4	4	13	NEW
9.	8.	WA6MHZ	?	10	10	-	
10.	-	W6YI	2	7	7	8	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 160 METERS

7/09	7/08	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	N6ND	35	128	128	193	+10
2.	2.	K6TQ	34	175	175	175	-
3.	6.	W6YI	34	152	152	164	+46
4.	9.	K6XT	33	102	102	151	+54
5.	3.	W6YA	33	?	?	137	+9
6.	8.	K6AM		116	116	126	+12
7.	4.	N7CW	29	55	55	124	-
8.	7.	N6AW	30	116	116	116	-
9.	10.	W6EUF		46	46	68	-
10.	-	N6KI		3	3	49	NEW

The standings on 6 are nearly frozen solid for a while. Lately, 6 has been open almost every day to somewhere, although unfortunately mostly for the domestic grid square set. The east coast is working Europe, but we are only working the east coast and the occasional Caribbean. Meanwhile, with the high bands gone, 160 is pretty good for a couple of months in the dead of winter. Some HUGH jumps being reported by K6XT and W6YI, both hitting their stride with their new 160 m antennas. Colorado does wonders for 160, and that new 2 el array at W6YI is just killer.

Both these bands are now being reported together since they both represent the ultimate challenge for the DX'er. Each takes the patience of a saint to wait out the ever-so-rare opening that may only last 5 minutes and be missed if someone in the right spot is not transmitting at just the right time. Our hats off to the top 10 winners in these categories.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, RTTY, phone, and CW. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.



Mountain Climbing, Again

By Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

After submitting 212 cards on January 15, 1981, I was officially in the ARRL's DXCC program. On September 25, 1989, Don Search sent me a letter congratulating me on achieving Mixed DXCC Honor Roll. On September 21, 1991 I worked Martti Laine, OH2BH, operating from ZA1A for number 323, my last "current" country.

I was officially a "Big Gun" and on the top of the mountain.

Getting to the top of the HR was a bit different than it is today. We had just started 2 meter Packetcluster but the 2 meter DX repeater was still the essential DX aid. We used "one ringers" (remember those?) and received DX bulletins via the US mail. Such was DX at the start of the 1990s.

Then I moved to "Covenant Country" in Colorado, commuting weekly between Denver and Chatsworth, CA and later San Diego for the next 7 years although the original plan had called for only 2 years of radio silence. No antennas allowed in suburban Denver. I was sure glad to be leaving ham-unfriendly Colorado. I was ready to start DXing again.

The family moved into Poway in August 2001 and I learned what "ham-unfriendly" **really** meant. I fought with the City of Poway about putting up an antenna until July 2004 and figured out that I had an awful lot of catching up to do.

So here was my "Want List" (with the date they were added to the DXCC program) on the day I finally got a little bit of aluminum up into the bright Southern California sky:

K9RHY Want List/Activation Date

BS7 - Scarborough Reef, January 1, 1995

P5 - DPRK, May 14, 1995

H40 - Temotu, March 31, 1998

FO - Austral Is, March 31, 1998

FO - Marquesas Is, March 31, 1998

E4 - Palestine, February 1, 1999

4W - Timor Liste, March 1, 2000

TX3 - Chesterfield Is, March 23, 2000

VP6 - Ducie Is, November 16, 2001

I felt pretty good about resuming the chase after more than 10 years of down time. Most of what I now needed was in the Pacific and I was on the West Coast. Chip shots.

My hunt really started out well. KH8SI showed up in July 2006 from Swains and was worked by all the deserving, myself included. My first new one in 15 years! I could still work a pileup!

I had been disappointed that the DXCC desk wasn't interested in my old Austral and Marquesas cards. But on July 30, 2006 I saw a spot on the DX Cluster for FO/KM9D on OC-114, a new IOTA for me. I worked him on 20 CW and did a

quick look up on the RSGB IOTA website and was stunned to see that the parent entity for Raivavae Island (OC-114) was the AUSTRAL ISLANDS! Two hours later, I'm tuning the bottom of the CW band and hear 4W6AAB on Timore Liste entertaining a small pileup. That's another all-time new one and within minutes he's in the log. Unbelievable! Two all time new ones in the same day! I don't remember that happening since France and Germany were new ones for me over 30 years ago.

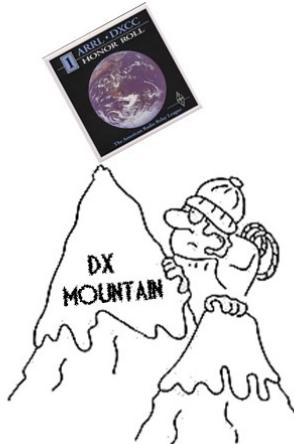
Word of the 2007 BS7 DXpedition started leaking out about the middle of 2006, well in advance of the event. On April 30, 2007 my first BS7H QSO went into the log. My contact was with K9AJ an old friend from Chicago. It's always great to hear the DX station call you by name in the pile-up!

Montenegro became a new one on June 28, 2006 but it took a lot of listening and cluster watching for me to finally put 4O3DX into the logbook a full year later.

Unlike Rip Van Winkle, DXing hadn't changed much during my absence. Yes, we now had the VE7CC cluster software and always-on internet connections and, yes, the internet DX sites are helpful as are DX bulletins via email and automatic text

messages sent to my iPhone from the cluster. But the pileups are still fierce, the DX signals sometimes ESP, the Italians still don't behave in the pileups, the JAs still listen to the DX station's instructions, etc. It was great to be back in the chase.

The September 2007 425DX News bulletin reported that Mike, KM9D and Jan, KF4TUG were heading to Tikopia Island (OC-178) - Temotu Province and were planning to be active as H40MY, but "their estimated time of arrival, length of stay and operating plans were unknown at this time". I spent many hours with the beam pointed toward the Pacific until putting Mike in the log from Temotu on September 23, 2007.



Then came the challenge. There was plenty of advance notice about an upcoming E4, Palestine operation. E4 hadn't been on the air for about eight years and I needed it badly. After about a year's worth of working with the Palestinian authorities, Mike/OM2DX, Steve/OM3JW, Rudi/OM3PC and Miro/OM5RW from the Slovak Republic received permission and to activate E4/OM2DX from December 14 to 22nd, 2007.

As everyone reading this story knows, San Diego to Palestine is a very tough path without sun spots. Plus Palestine doesn't have any world class resorts. I had been there on a side trip while on business some years ago and it was not a pleasant or pretty place.

Working the E4 required lots of listening and crossing my fingers to be at the right place at the right time. I was tuning 20 SSB on December 17 and heard several 4X stations, signaling me that the band was open between Poway and the Middle East. And sure enough, there under a hoard of Europeans was the E4. With just a few minutes of propagation remaining, Mike finally stood by for North America. I didn't wait a second. The E4 was in the log. I didn't hear any other North Americans make it after me. Got them on CW the next day as well. Phew!

It was just 2 days later that Martii was up as FJ/OH2AM, a brand new one for all of us. He worked the deserving in his usual style and I bagged St. Barthelemy on December 19, 2007.

While the Australis had been easy to add to my totals, the Marquesas Islands were another story. There had been rumblings about a small Marquesas operation circulating for months. The DX bulletins had scant news, but it was enough. It took a lot of listening and some help from the cluster to nab FO/OH1RX on both CW and SSB on the same day, January 12, 2008 after 1 1/2 years of hunting.

At the Dayton DX forum in April 2007, Eric/K3NA and Carsten/DL6LAU announced that a multi-national team of 13 operators would be going to Ducie Island in February 2008. The landing permissions and licenses are granted and a suitable charter vessel had been secured. They were planning to stay on the atoll for 13 days. Having missed the last Ducie operation by days, I was stoked.

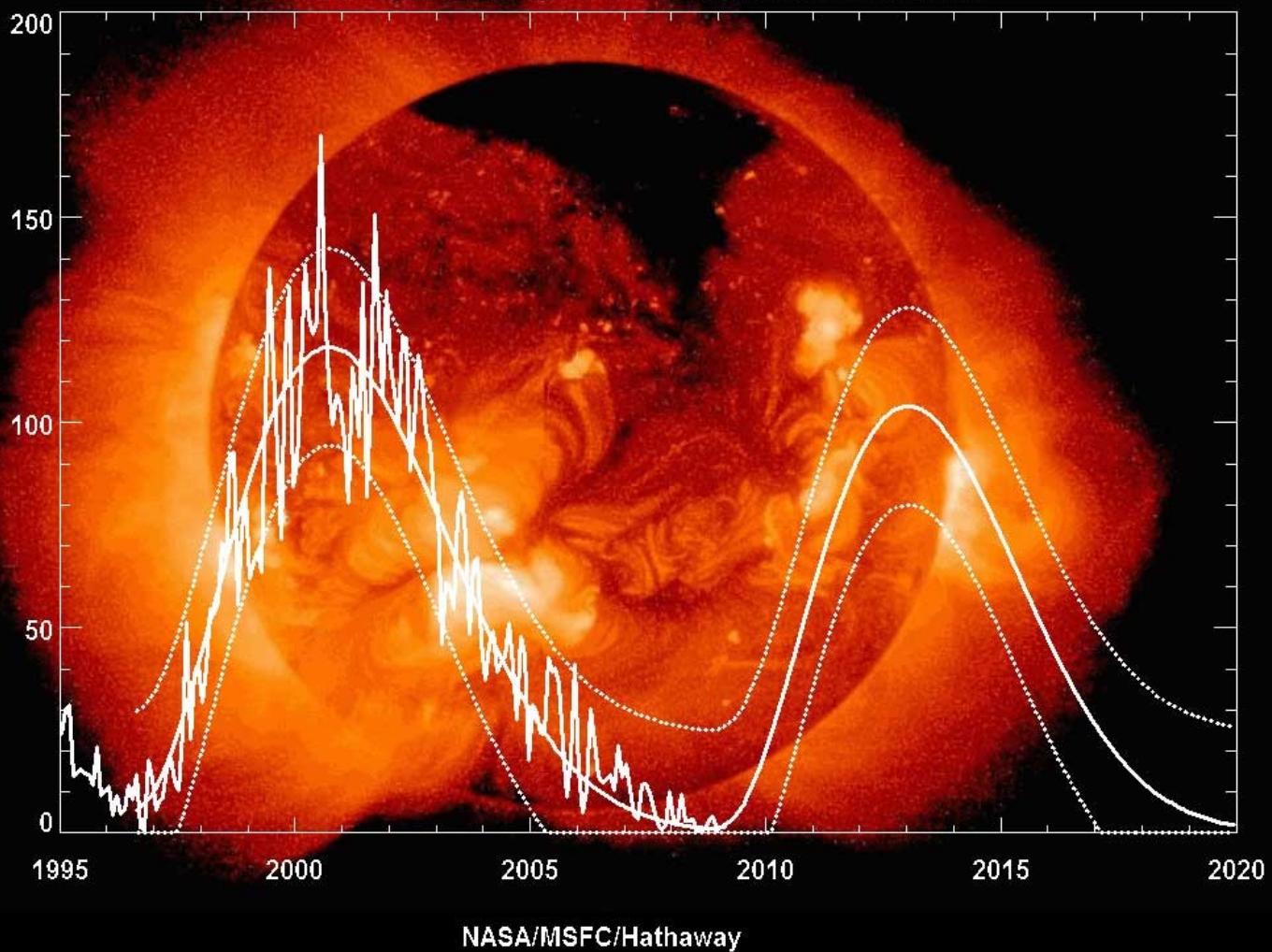
With a mega-operation and a West Coast address, Ducie was an easy catch. I put VP6DX in the log within minutes of the start of the operation.

This takes the story to March or April of 2009. I'm down to just 2 more countries to get back to the Top of the Honor Roll. Chesterfield Island and the DPRK (P5). My heart skips a beat as I read that George, AA7JV and Tomi, HA7RY are planning to activate Chesterfield island as TX3A in "November or December" 2009. Fantastic!

I'm one of the early contributors, sending my \$€\$ support to the team. I put up a new 40 meter antenna (a dipole with the apex at the Poway-mandated 35 feet) just to work TX3A. And sure enough, the operation was a complete success (at least for me). I nailed them within 24 hours of their getting on the air.

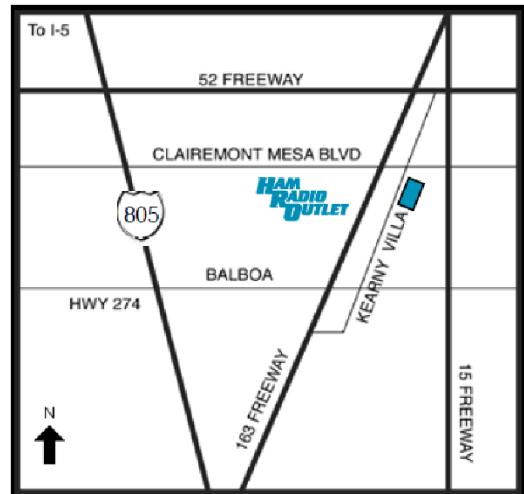
So now I'll go back to chasing islands in the RSGB's program until Kim Jong-Il joins his daddy or something else happens to get P5 on the air. Who knows. It has happened before. I waited for BY, I waited for ZA. Now I'm waiting for P5. If you hear one on the bands, please give me a one-ringer.

Cycle 23-24 Sunspot Number Prediction (March 2009)



January Contests

Contest	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
Mongolian RTTY DX Contest	9-Jan	0000Z	9-Jan	2400Z
NAQP, CW	9-Jan	1800Z	10-Jan	0600Z
NAQP, SSB	16-Jan	1800Z	17-Jan	0600Z
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	29-Jan	2200Z	31-Jan	2159Z



DX Is!!